

The Flower

A talk by Sant Darshan Singh on a visit to a park March 1980

“When we find ourselves in the midst of natural beauty like this, we think of God as the Supreme Artist. He endows every detail of creation, every object, not only with beauty, but with meaning. We only need to have the eyes and the heart to respond to that wealth of significance.

Just look at all the flowers around us-how beautiful, how wonderful. Whenever we see them, we are instantly in love with them. If you want to take a gift to someone special, someone dear to you, you at once think of flowers. If you want to compliment your beloved, you compare her to a rose or a lily. We all love flowers and admire them for their beauty, yet do we ever stop to think of what their Creator is signifying through them? For us they are only objects of beauty and they are that indeed, but they should make us think of the One who made them as they are so much more.

Jesus wanted us to be like the flowers of the field which do not think of the morrow. What did he mean? If you just stop to think of it, the life of a flower is one long hymn of praise for its Creator. We may prepare a face to meet the faces that we meet-we put on a mask when we meet others. We may present ourselves in one form before other people and quite another when not in public. But with a flower it otherwise. Once it has blossomed it has nothing to hide, nothing to disguise. It blooms in all its loveliness whether there are people to see it or not, be it in the wilderness or in a garden, or in the heart of a city; for a flower, it is just the same. It is there to shower God's beauty, God's fragrance.

Whether it is in bud in its very youth or it is in its old age and it is about to wither, whether you let it stay on the stem or pluck it, it still continues to give you its perfume, its sweetness. It does not permit anything to make it deviate from its own true nature. You may crush it and it will still give off its fragrance. The more violence you do against it, the more intensity does it share its sweetness with you.

That is the way our life should be-a kind of visual, silent poem which reflects the beauty of our Creator. There should be an openness about our lives so that we are in public what we are in private. And when the challenges of life come

our way, as they must for each one of us, instead of making us lose our faith or turn bitter, they should only make us give more fully of the sweetness and the goodness within us, the goodness which God has given to all of us in such ample measure.”